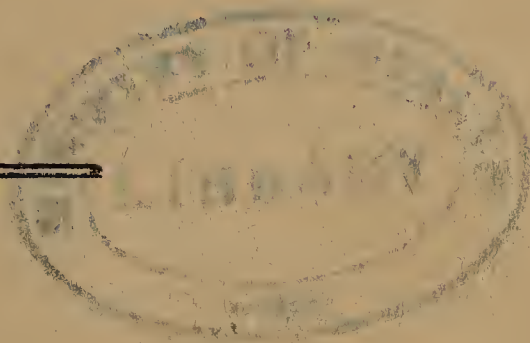


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Swanscombe Urban



District Council



Twenty-First Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH, 1946

BY

C. M. OCKWELL

M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

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GRAVESEND :

Printed by the Gravesend & Dartford Reporter, Ltd.,
44-46 Harmer Street.



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SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Twenty-first and last Annual Report.

I take the opportunity of thanking all Councillors with whom I have been associated during this time for their unvarying support and encouragement. Also to fellow officials, mentioning in particular, Mr. Croucher and Mr. Sharpe.

Relations with both Councillors and Officials have always been of the most cordial.

DIPHTHERIA.

Looking back over past Reports the most striking change is that in the incidence of Diphtheria.

In the first year, that of 1926, there were 41 cases, with one death. In 1927, there were 62 cases, with three deaths.

In February, 1927, Diphtheria Immunisation was started—a process at that time more prolonged than now. I believe Swanscombe was the first Authority to institute this in Kent, and among the first few in the whole of the Country. 500 children—approximately half the child population—were immunised the first year. The campaign has been pursued with vigour since and with some fluctuation after the first wave, has been successful. Figures have ranged round 85-90% for some years now.

CEMENT DUST.

The Cement Dust nuisance still persists despite the installation of electric-precipitation, and other methods, which have been adopted during the period under review.

It is putting it mildly to say that this is a disappointing result. There are many factors at work here, and one can but hope that when things recover from the post-war depression, greater efforts may be made to deal with the nuisance.

HOUSING.

One of the tragedies of the war was the damage done to houses. By 1939, overcrowding according to the official standard, admittedly a low one, of the Housing Act, 1936, had been abolished.

Ninety-eight houses were destroyed and 198 badly damaged and evacuated during the war. All the damaged houses have now been repaired. Also, 38 demolished houses have been rebuilt, and 100 temporary houses erected and let. Thirty-eight permanent houses, in addition to 62 permanent prefabricated houses, are under construction. This latter programme, when completed, will bring us back virtually to the 1939 position.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2142
Population (Census 1931)	8541
Present Estimated Population	7696
Number of inhabited houses (includes separately rated flats)	2231
Rateable Value	£56,981
Sum represented by a penny rate	£214

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	161	85	76
	Illegitimate	9	4	5
		<hr/> 170 <hr/>	<hr/> 89 <hr/>	<hr/> 81 <hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	22.2
General birth rate for England and Wales	19.1

	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	2	2	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths)			11.7

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	77	43	34

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.0
--	------

General Death rate for England and Wales 11.5
 Death from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30
 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	35.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

General Rate for England and Wales	43.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
„ „ Measles (all ages)	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	.....	.....
Measles	1	1
Scarlet Fever .....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....
Diphtheria .....	.....	.....
Influenza	1	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	.....	.....
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases .....	.....	1
Syphilis .....	.....	.....
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis .....	.....	.....

Cancer, Malignant Disease	.....	.....	4	7
Diabetes	.....	.....	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	.....	.....	—	—
Heart Disease	.....	.....	12	9
Aneurysm	.....	.....	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	.....	.....	—	—
Bronchitis	.....	.....	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	.....	.....	5	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	.....	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	.....	.....	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	.....	.....	1	—
Appendicitis	.....	.....	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	.....	.....	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	.....	.....	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	.....	.....	2	—
Nephritis	.....	.....	—	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	.....	.....	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	.....	.....	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	.....	.....	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	.....	.....	2	2
Senility	.....	.....	—	—
Suicide	.....	.....	—	—
Other Violence	.....	.....	1	—
Other Defined Diseases	.....	.....	—	—
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	.....	.....	2	2
Road Traffic	.....	.....	2	1
Intra Cran Vasc. Lesions	.....	.....	5	5

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :	C. M. OCKWELL, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.), part time appointed 1st October, 1926.
Sanitary Inspector :	L. E. CROUCHER (who is also Surveyor), M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., appointed 1st July, 1926.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector :	F. W. SHARPE (part time).

There are no further developments under the following heads :—

Nursing in the Home. Ambulance Facilities.

Midwives. Hospitals.

Legislation in Force. Rivers and Streams.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The local St. John Ambulance, with those of the local works, has proved itself adequate to the needs of the District.

County Laboratory.

The following specimens were dealt with from this district :—

*Diphtheria Swabs	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
*Sputa (for tubercle bacillus)	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
No. of samples of effluent from the Outfall Works					—
*Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
*Serum for Typhus	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Schools' milk samples : Bacteriological test for Cleanliness	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
*Haemolytic Streptococci Swab	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
No. of samples of water from Swimming Pool					—
No. of samples of water from Dwellings' Domestic Supply	.....	.....	.....	.....	I
No. of samples of water from Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....
Watercress	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Dysenteriae Sonne	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Salmonella Typhi Murium	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

* Only positive specimens reported.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—All houses are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Drainage and Sewage.

HOUSES CONNECTED :—

Local Authority's Temporary Housing	.....	.....	100
Other Bodies	.....	.....	3

	No. in Districts	No. of visits in 1946	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	6	16	—	—
Dairies	1	4	—	—
*Slaughterhouses { Registered	2	— } 12	—	—
{ Licensed	2			
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	28	163	3	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	24	27	2	2
Workshops	22	30	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	15	7	2	2

* No Licences Granted.

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the Year (other than those enumerated in the previous Tabulation).

Overcrowding	14	Miscellaneous	8
Keeping of Animals	2	Refuse Receptacles	101
Hop-pickers' Camp	—	Tents, Vans and Sheds	—
Sanitary Accommodation—		Smoke Nuisances	—
(i) Insufficient	4	Yard Paving	5
(ii) Defective	9	Dampness	17
Drainage—		Roofs and Rain Water	
(i) Re-constructed	3	Pipes	18
(ii) Repaired	5	Floors	17
(iii) Cleansed	31	Walls and Ceilings	51
Cesspools—		Windows and Ventilation	14
(i) Abolished	3	Baths, Lavatory Basins	
(ii) Repaired	3	and Sinks	4
Offensive Accumulations	2	Water Supplies	—
Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year			1423
Approximate number of separate premises in the area			2231
Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—			
W.C's into drainage system	2135	W.C's into cesspools	89
Earth closets or privy middens	1	Pail closets	6
Number of premises not connected to public water supplies			2
Notices served: Statutory, 14. Informal, 57			
Number of houses, etc., disinfected			4
Batches of clothing			2

Shops Act, 1934.

No action was taken under the above Act.

Swimming Bath.

Attendances : Adults 13,167 Spectators 520.
Children Paid for Admission 9,994.
,, from Schools 712.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) The number of (a) Council houses, 2 ; (b) other houses, 3 ; (i) found to be infested, 5 ; (ii) disinfested, 5.

(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by sulphur fumigation. (Flour of Sulphur).

(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses : Inspection and disinfestation before occupation.

(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council houses, Local Authority. (b) Private houses, owners and occupiers.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

Treatment—Pro Scabin.

No. of cases treated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
No. of cases notified	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

Treatment Centre—Northfleet Urban District
Council Cleansing Station.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary Conveniences.

Water Closets and Lavatory Basins sufficient for requirements.

Drinking Water.

Supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 472

Number of inspections made for that purpose 472

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932 254

Number of inspections made for that purpose 254

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 115

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	309
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	54
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners	49
---------------------	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
---	---

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	55
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : —

(a) By Owners	49
---------------------	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
---	---

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
--	---

(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	.....
(e) (1)	Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority	597
	(36 are being sold ; 40 are sold).	
	Purchased by Local Authority in Clearance Area.....	I
(2)	Number of new houses built during 1946 :—	
(a)	By the Local Authority, Rebuilt	38
	By Ministry of Works, Temporary	100
(b)	By other bodies or persons	—
	„ „ „ „ „ Conversions	4

Housing Act 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	20
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	98
(b) (i)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	44
(d) (i)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

Milk Supply.

Of the 6 samples of School Milk taken all were found to be satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Amount of food condemned during year — 6cwt. 3 qtrs. 0 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	13
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	13
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affect- ed with disease other than Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	2
Percentage of the number inspected affect- ed with Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the
Year 1946.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	5
Measles	52	—	1
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	5	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Total	73	2	6

Disease	Age under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and up's	Total
Scarlet Fever					2							2
Diphtheria						1	1					2
Puerperal Pyrexia									1			1
Pneumonia			1							2	1	4
Erysipelas									1			1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 years		Over 5 and up to 15 years		Total
Course Completed	Not Completed	Course Completed	Not Completed	
46	4	72	17	139

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified	Cases		Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5	I							
10								
15								
20								
25	I	2						
35	I	2			2	I		
45		I			I			
65 and upwards					I			I
Totals	3	5			4	I	—	I

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths—50%

The efficiency of notification in the area is fairly good.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	27	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	30	—	—
Other premises under the Act	7	2	—
Totals	64	4	—

2.

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—
Totals	4	4	—	—

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations
1925.**

There was no need for action under these Regulations.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. OCKWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

